

RAT

Blast her pride, O ye blest gods! so will you wish on me,
when the *rat* mood is on me. *Shakefp.*
I have scarce leisure to salute you,
My matter is to *rat*. *Shakefp. Troilus and Cressida.*
Be not *rat* with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be
hasty to utter any thing before God; for God is in heavens,
and thou upon earth; therefore let thy words be few. *Eclif.*
Her *rat* hand in evil hour,
Forth reaching to the fruit, she pluck'd, she eat. *Milton.*
RASH. *n. f.* [*rafcia*, Italian.]
1. Sattin. *Minshew.*
2. [Corrupted probably from *rat*.] An efflorescence on the
body; a breaking out.
RA'SHER. *n. f.* [*rafura lardi*, Lat.] A thin slice of bacon.
If we grow all to be pork eaters, we shall not shortly have
a *rasher* on the coals for money. *Shakefp. Merch. of Venice.*
White and black was all her homely cheer,
And *rasfers* of fing'd bacon on the coals. *Dryden.*
Quenches his thirst with ale in nut-brown bowls,
And takes the hasty *rasfer* from the coals. *King.*
RA'SHLY. *adv.* [from *rat*.] Hastily; violently; without due
consideration.
This expedition was by York and Talbot
Too *rashly* plotted. *Shakefp. Henry VI. p. i.*
Men are not *rashly* to take that for done, which is not
done. *Bacon's Natural History.*
He that doth any thing *rashly*, must do it willingly; for he
was free to deliberate or not. *L'Estrange's Fables.*
Declare the secret villain,
The wretch so meanly base to injure Phœdra,
So *rashly* brave to dare the sword of Theseus. *Smith.*
RA'SHNESS. *n. f.* [from *rat*.] Foolish contempt of danger;
inconsiderate heat of temper; precipitation; temerity.
Who seeth not what sentence it shall enforce us to give
against all churches in the world; in as much as there is not
one, but hath had many things established in it, which though
the scripture did never command, yet for us to condemn were
rashness. *Hooker, b. iii. f. 6.*
Nature to youth hot *rashness* doth dispence,
But with cold prudence age doth recompence. *Denham.*
In so speaking, we offend indeed against truth; yet we
offend not properly by falsehood, which is a speaking against
our thoughts; but by *rashness*, which is an affirming or de-
nying, before we have sufficiently informed ourselves. *South.*
The vain Morat by his own *rashness* wrought,
Too soon discover'd his ambitious thought,
Believ'd me his, because I spoke him fair. *Dryden.*
RASP. *n. f.* [*raspo*, Italian.] A delicious berry that grows on
a species of the bramble; a raspberry.
Sorrel set amongst *rasps*, and the *rasps* will be the smaller.
Bacon's Natural History.
Now will the corinths, now the *rasps* supply
Delicious draughts, when prest to wines. *Philips.*
To RASP. *v. a.* [*raspen*, Dutch; *rasper*, Fr. *raspare*, Italian.]
To rub to powder with a very rough file.
Some authors have advised the *rasping* of these bones; but
in this case it is needless. *Wifeman's Surgery.*
Having prepared hard woods and ivory for the lathe with
rasping, they pitch it between the pikes. *Moxon.*
RASP. *n. f.* [from the verb.] A large rough file, commonly
used to wear away wood.
Case-hardening is used by file-cutters, when they make
coarse files, and generally most *rasps* have formerly been made
of iron and case-hardened. *Moxon's Mechanical Exercises.*
RA'SPATORY. *n. f.* [*raspatoir*, Fr. from *rasp*.] A chiturgon's
rasp.
I put into his mouth a *raspatory*, and pulled away the cor-
rupt flesh, and with cauteries burnt it to a crust. *Wifeman's Surgery.*
RA'SPBERRY, or *Rasberry*. *n. f.* A kind of berry.
Raspberries are of three sorts; the common wild one, the
large red garden *raspberry*, which is one of the pleasantest
of fruits, and the white, which is little inferior to the
red. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
RASPBERRY-BUSH. *n. f.* A species of bramble.
RA'SURE. *n. f.* [*rafura*, Lat.]
1. The act of scraping or shaving.
2. A mark in a writing where something has been rubbed out.
Such a writing ought to be free from any vituperation of
rafure. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*
RAT. *n. f.* [*ratte*, Dutch; *rat*, Fr. *rattia*, Spanish.] An animal
of the mouse kind that infests houses and ships.
Our natures do pursue,
Like *rats* that ravin down their proper bane. *Shakefp.*
Make you ready your stiff bats and clubs,
Rome and her *rats* are at the point of battle. *Shakefp.*
I have seen the time, with my long sword I would have
made you four tall fellows skip like *rats*. *Shakefp.*
Thus horses will knable at walls, and *rats* will gnaw
iron. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
If in despair he goes out of the way like a *rat* with a dose
of arsenick, why he dies nobly. *Dennis.*

RAT

To smell a RAT. To be put on the watch by suspicion as the
cat by the scent of a rat; to suspect danger.
Quoth Hudibras, I smell a *rat*,
Ralpho, thou dost prevaricate. *Hudibras, p. i.*
RATABLE. *adj.* [from *rate*.] Set at a certain value.
The Danes brought in a reckoning of money by ores, per
oras; I collect out of the abby-book of Burton, that twenty
ores were *ratable* to two marks of silver. *Camden's Remains.*
RAT'ABLY. *adv.* Proportionably.
Many times there is no proportion of shot and powder al-
lowed *ratably* by that quantity of the great ordnance. *Raleigh.*
RATA'RIA. *n. f.* A fine liquor, prepared from the kernels of
apricots and spirits. *Bailey.*
RATA'N. *n. f.* An Indian cane. *Diit.*
RATCH. *n. f.* In clockwork, a sort of wheel, which serves
to lift up the detents every hour, and thereby make
the clock strike. *Bailey.*
RATE. *n. f.* [*ratu*, Lat. *rate*, old Fr.]
1. Price fixed on any thing.
How many things do we value, because they come at dear
rates from Japan and China, which if they were our own
manufacture, common to be had, and for a little money,
would be neglected? *Locke.*
I'll not betray the glory of my name,
'Tis not for me, who have prefer'd a state,
To buy an empire at so base a *rate*. *Dryden.*
The price of land has never changed, in the several changes
have been made in the *rate* of interest by law; nor now that
the *rate* of interest is by law the same, is the price of land
every where the same. *Locke.*
2. Allowance settled.
His allowance was a continual allowance, a daily *rate* for
every day. *2 Kings xxv. 30.*
They obliged themselves to remit after the *rate* of twelve
hundred thousand pounds sterling per annum, divided into
many monthly payments. *Addison.*
3. Degree; comparative height or valour.
I am a spirit of no common *rate*;
The summer still doth tend upon my state. *Shakefp.*
I have disabled mine estate,
By shewing something a more swelling port,
Than my faint means would grant continuance;
Nor do I now make moan to be abridged
From such a noble *rate*. *Shakefp. Merchant of Venice.*
In this did his holiness and godliness appear above the *rate*
and pitch of other mens, in that he was so infinitely mer-
ciful. *Calamy's Sermons.*
To which relation whatsoever is done agreeably, is mo-
rally and essentially good; and whatsoever is done otherwise,
is at the same *rate* morally evil. *South.*
4. Quantity assignable.
In goodly form comes on the enemy;
And by the ground they hide, I judge their number
Upon or near the *rate* of thirty thousand. *Shakefp.*
5. That which sets value.
Heretofore the *rate* and standard of wit was very different
from what it is now-a-days: no man was then accounted a
wit for speaking such things, as deserved to have the tongue
cut out. *South's Sermons.*
A virtuous heathen is, at this *rate*, as happy as a virtuous
christian. *Atterbury.*
6. Manner of doing any thing; degree to which any thing is
done.
Many of the horse could not march at that *rate*, nor come
up soon enough. *Clarendon, b. viii.*
Tom hinting his dislike of some trifle his mistress had said,
she asked him how he would talk to her after marriage, if he
talked at this *rate* before? *Addison.*
7. Tax imposed by the parish.
They paid the church and parish *rate*,
And took, but read not the receipt. *Prior.*
To RATE. *v. a.* [from the noun.]
1. To value at a certain price.
I freely told you, all the wealth I had
Ran in my veins, I was a gentleman;
And yet, dear lady,
Rating myself as nothing, you shall see
How much I was a braggart. *Shakefp. Merch. of Venice.*
We may there be instructed, how to name and *rate* all
goods, by those that will concentrate into felicity. *Boyle.*
You seem not high enough your joys to *rate*,
You stand indebted a vast sum to fate,
And should large thanks for the great blessing pay. *Dryden.*
2. [Reita, Islandick.] To chide hastily and vehemently.
Go *rate* thy minions, proud insulting boys,
Becomes it thee to be thus bold in terms
Before thy sovereign. *Shakefp. Henry VI. p. iii.*
An old lord of the council *rated* me the other day in the
street about you, Sir. *Shakefp. Henry IV. p. i.*
What is all that a man enjoys, from a year's converse,
comparable to what he feels for one hour, when his confidence
shall take him aside and *rate* him by himself. *South.*

RAT

If words are sometimes to be used, they ought to be grave,
kind and sober, representing the ill or unbecomingness of the
faults, rather than a hasty *rating* of the child for it. *Locke.*
RATH. *n. f.* A hill. I know not whence derived.
There is a great use among the Irish, to make great af-
semblies together upon a *rath* or hill, there to parly about
matters and wrongs between townships or private persons.
Spenser on Ireland.
RATH. *adv.* Early.
Thus is my summer worn away and wasted,
Thus is my harvest hasten'd all too *rath*,
The ear, that budded fair, is burnt and blasted,
And all my hoped gain is turn'd to scathe. *Spenser.*
Strong Lagean wines
Rath ripe and purple grapes there be. *May's Virgil.*
Rath ripe are some, and some of later kind,
Of golden some, and some of purple kind. *May's Virgil.*
RATH. *adj.* [*rað*, Saxon, quickly.] Early; coming before
the time.
Bring the *rath* primrose that forsaken dies,
The tufted crow-toe and pale jessamine. *Milton.*
RATH'ER. *adv.* [this is a comparative from *rath*; *rað*, Saxon,
soon. Now out of use. One may still say, by the same
form of speaking, I will sooner do this than that; that is, I
like better to do this.]
1. More willingly; with better liking.
Almighty God desireth not the death of a sinner, but ra-
ther that he should turn from his wickedness and live. *Common Prayer.*
2. Preferably to the other; with better reason.
'Tis rather to be thought, that an heir had no such right
by divine institution, than that God should give such a right,
but yet leave it undetermined who such heir is. *Locke.*
3. In a greater degree than otherwise.
He fought through the world, but fought in vain,
And no where finding, *rath*er fear'd her slain. *Dryden.*
4. More properly.
This is an art,
Which does mend nature, change it *rath*er, but
The art itself is nature. *Shakefp. Winter's Tale.*
5. Especially.
You are come to me in a happy time,
The *rath*er for I have some sport in hand. *Shakefp.*
6. To have RATHER. [this is, I think, a barbarous expression
of late intrusion into our language, for which it is better to
say *will rather*.] To desire in preference.
'Tis with reluctance he is provoked by our impentence to
apply the discipline of severity and correction; he had rather
mankind should adore him as their patron and benefactor.
Rogers's Sermons.
RATIFICATION. *n. f.* [*ratification*, Fr. from *ratify*.] The act
of ratifying; confirmation.
RATIFIER. *n. f.* [from *ratify*.] The person or thing that
ratifies.
They cry, "chuse we Laertes for our king?"
The *ratifiers* and props of every word,
Caps, hands and tongues applaud it to the clouds. *Shakefp.*
To RATH'Y. *v. a.* [*ratum facio*, Latin.] To confirm; to
settle.
The church being a body which dieth not, hath always
power, as occasion requireth, no less to ordain that which
never was, than to *ratify* what hath been before. *Hooker.*
By the help of these, with him above
To *ratify* the work, we may again
Give to our tables meat, sleep to our nights. *Shakefp.*
We have *ratified* unto them the borders of Judæa. *1 Mac.*
God *ratified* their prayers by the judgment they brought
down upon the head of him, whom they prayed against.
South.
Tell me, my friend, from whence had'st thou the skill,
So nicely to distinguish good from ill?
And what thou art to follow, what to fly,
This to condemn, and that to *ratify*? *Dryden.*
RATIO. *n. f.* [Latin.] Proportion.
Whatever inclinations the rays have to the plane of inci-
dence, the sine of the angle of incidence of every ray con-
sidered apart, shall have to the sine of the angle of refraction
a constant *ratio*. *Cheyne's Philosophical Principles.*
To RATIOCINATE. *v. n.* [*ratiocinor*, Lat.] To reason;
to argue.
RATIOCINATION. *n. f.* [*ratiocinatio*, Lat.] The act of rea-
soning; the act of deducing consequences from premises.
In simple terms, expressing the open notions of things,
which the second act of reason compoundeth into pro-
positions, and the last into syllogisms and forms of *ratioci-*
nation. *Brown.*
Can any kind of *ratiocination* allow Christ all the marks of
the Messiah, and yet deny him to be the Messiah? *South.*
Such an inscription would be self-evident without any *ra-*
tification or study, and could not fail constantly to exert its
energy in their minds; *Bentley.*

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RATIOCINATIVE. *adj.* [from *ratiocinate*.] Argumentative;
advancing by process of discourse.
Some consecutions are so intimately and evidently connexed
to, or found in the premises, that the conclusion is attained
quasi per saltum, and without any thing of *ratiocinative* pro-
cess, even as the eye sees his object immediately, and without
any previous discourse. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*
RATIONAL. *adj.* [*rationalis*, Latin.]
1. Having the power of reasoning.
2. Agreeable to reason.
What higher in her society thou find'st
Attractive, humane, *rational*, love still. *Milton.*
When the conclusion is deduced from the unerring dictates
of our faculties, we say the inference is *rational*. *Glarvill.*
If your arguments be *rational*, offer them in as moving a
manner as the nature of the subject will admit; but beware
of letting the pathetic part swallow up the *rational*. *Swift.*
3. Wise; judicious; as, a rational man.
RATIONAL'LE. *n. f.* [from *ratio*, Lat.] A detail with reasons;
as, Dr. Sparrow's *Rationale of the Common Prayer*.
RATIONALIST. *n. f.* [from *rational*.] One who proceeds in
his disquisitions and practice wholly upon reason.
He often used this comparison; the empirical philosophers
are like to pismires; they only lay up and use their store:
the *rationalists* are like to spiders; they spin all out of their
own bowels: but give me a philosopher, who, like the bee,
hath a middle faculty, gathering from abroad, but digesting
that which is gathered by his own virtue. *Bacon.*
RATIONALITY. *n. f.* [from *rational*.]
1. The power of reasoning.
When God has made *rationality* the common portion of
mankind, how came it to be thy inclosure? *Gov. of the Tong.*
2. Reasonableness.
In human occurrences, there have been many well directed
intentions, whose *rationalities* will never bear a rigid exami-
nation. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
RATIONALLY. *adv.* [from *rational*.] Reasonably; with
reason.
Upon the proposal of an agreeable object, it may *rationally*
be conjectured, that a man's choice will rather incline him to
accept than to refuse it. *South.*
RATIONALNESS. *n. f.* [from *rational*.] The state of being
rational.
RA'TSBANE. *n. f.* [*rat* and *bane*.] Poison for rats; arsenick.
Poor Tom! that hath laid knives under his pillow, and
halts in his pew; set *ratsbane* by his porridge. *Shakefp.*
He would throw *ratsbane* up and down a house, where chil-
dren might come at it. *L'Estrange.*
When murder's out, what vice can we advance?
Unless the new-found pois'ning trick of France;
And when their art of *ratsbane* we have got,
By way of thanks, we'll fend 'em o'er our plot. *Dryden.*
I can hardly believe the relation of his being poisoned, but
sack might do it, though *ratsbane* would not. *Swift to Pope.*
RA'TTEEN. *n. f.* A kind of stuff.
We'll rig in Meath-street Egypt's haughty queen,
And Anthony shall court her in *ratteen*. *Swift.*
To RA'TTLE. *v. n.* [*ratelen*, Dutch.]
1. To make a quick sharp noise with frequent repetitions and
collisions of bodies not very sonorous: when bodies are so-
norous, it is called *jingling*.
The quiver *rattled* against him. *Job xxxix. 23.*
The noise of a whip, of the rattling of the wheels, of
prancing horses, and of the jumping chariots. *Nab. iii. 2.*
They had, to affright the enemies horses, big rattles co-
vered with parchment, and small stones within; but the
rattling of shot might have done better service. *Hayward.*
He was too warm on picking work to dwell;
He fagoted his notions as they fell,
And if they rhym'd and *rattled* all was well. *Dryden.*
There she assembles all her blackest storms,
And the rude hail in *rattling* tempest forms. *Addison.*
2. To speak eagerly and noisily.
With jealous eyes at distance she had seen
Whispering with Jove the silver-footed queen;
Then, impotent of tongue, her silence broke,
Thus turbulent in *rattling* tone she spoke. *Dryden.*
He is a man of pleasure, and a free-thinker; he is an af-
fector of liberty and property; he *rattles* it out against
popery. *Swift.*
To RA'TTLE. *v. a.*
1. To move any thing so as to make a rattle or noise.
Her chains the *rattles*, and her whip the shakes. *Dryden.*
2. To stun with a noise; to drive with a noise.
Sound but another, and another shall,
As loud as thine, *rattle* the welkin's ear,
And mock the deep-mouth'd thunder. *Shakefp.*
He should be well enough able to scatter the Irish as a flight
of birds, and *rattle* away this swarm of bees with their
king. *Bacon's Henry VII.*